

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, 1876, with transcript

Letter from Miss Mabel G. Hubbard to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. (1876?) My dear Alec:

I have just torn up one letter which seemed to me insufferably stupid, now I have only time for a short note. I enjoyed my journey on, except that it took me further and further away from you and my darling Mother and poor little Pidgis. In fact I became dreadfully homesick, nearly cried myself to sleep, and wore my ring all night for comfort. That's a thing I never do for fear that the moisture of my hand may hurt it. But I could not help it then. Now I am all right thank you, and somewhat ashamed of last night's nonsense. As Carrie and I were combing our hair, I said how much I wished I had hair like her's so long and thick. She said "Well I will give you half my hair if you will give me half your eyelashes." I did not understand her, but thought she said "half your Alec's." That did not finish the sentence, so as I think, my imagination added "hair." When Carrie repeated her words more distinctly I understood at once and remembered seeing a difference in the way she pronounced the supposed Alec's, prolonging the word and moving her mouth more — still the appearance was much alike. There this is a contribution to your — what did you call it. Whether it will raise your estimation of my scientific powers or sink it still more I have no idea!

I haven't said a word about bathing, and with reason, for I have had none of it. Cousin Sam was unwell and could not go in, so I had to follow suit. For once however I did not feel the hardship of having to obey my "liege lord's tyrannical command." To tell the truth I was rather afraid. It was very misty and damp too.

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I like your way of being sick much better than Cousin Sam's. He looks after himself and doctors himself and doesn't need any feminine looking after, while you couldn't possibly do without my dear.

2

Cousin Mary was very glad to see me, so much so that I don't see how I can ever get away. I do hate to oppose anyone, perhaps though she will get tired of me. Her first words were "Has Mr. Bell willing you should come?" and right glad I was to be able with a clear conscience to say "yes." I am afraid I should have said so or tried to even if you had not told me you were glad to have me come. I am very fond of Cousin Mary, she is just as kind and loving to me as she can be. I only feel sure you and she could never be very good friends, she has strong prejudices that would jat upon you. I am so different from you, and do not mind, or even notice it, but only see how truly good and noble she is in spite of all. I only wish I could love my friends as she does her's.

Carrie has been botanizing all day, I have lazily enjoyed her industry and gone on reading one of my novels. Cousin Mary too has been reading, Cousin Sam disapproves of novels and never reads them, but has spent his invalidity in reading the deeper parts of Littels, and looking at wonderful pictures of parts of the bodies of his beloved caterpillars.

I must go and write to Mamma. With love to your father and mother and ever so much for yourself. I have been wondering where you are and what you are doing, I hope your headache is better that you enjoyed your visits yesterday and are now in cooler regions.

Lovingly, Your, Mabel.